



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,135	12/19/2000	Carl Chang	25609.00010	2531

7590 06/18/2004

JoANNE S. REDMAN
LINER YANKELEVITZ SUNSHINE & REGENSTREIF LLP
1100 GLENDON AVENUE
14 TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

EXAMINER

LE, HIEU C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2142

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/752,135

Applicant(s)

CHANG ET AL

Examiner

Hieu c. Le

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22, 24-29, 31-37, 39 and 41-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 23, 30, 38, 40, 44 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

102(f) *The article to Chang et al. names, Alexei Vorontsov and Jia Zhang which have not been named as inventors. Applicant must resolve the inventorship in response to this action. See MPEP 2137.*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

2. Claims 1-4, 9-12, 14-17, 33-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) & (f) as being anticipate by Chang et al, " Rule Mitigated Collaboration Technology", IEEE , p. 137, p. 142, Dec 1999.

As to claim 1, Chang discloses a system for providing and monitoring electronic collaboration among users comprising:

an extended parliamentary procedure rule set (p. 137, Lc, line 16);

an electronic meeting environment governed by said extended parliamentary procedure rule set (p. 137, Lc, lines 23-38); and

a set of application interfaces which allow communication between said extended parliamentary procedure rule set and said electronic meeting environment (p. 137, Lc, line 17).

As to claim 2, Chang further discloses wherein said extended parliamentary procedure rule set is based on Robert's Rules of Order (p. 137, Rc, lines 4-5).

As to claim 3, Chang further discloses wherein said electronic meeting environment allows for synchronous and asynchronous meetings (Fig. 1, p. 138, Lc, first four lines).

As to claim 4, refer to claim 3 rejection.

As to claim 9, Chang further discloses further comprising:

a scoping policy linked to electronic meeting environment governed by said extended parliamentary procedure rule set and said set of application interfaces whereby documents may be efficiently co-authored (p. 137, Lc, line 17, P. 141. Lc, lines 4-21).

As to claim 10, refer to claim 9 rejection.

As to claim 11, refer to claim 9 rejection.

As to claim 12, refer to claim 9 rejection.

As to claim 14, Chang further discloses further comprising:

an object based client-server architecture functionally supporting said electronic meeting environment governed by said extended parliamentary procedure rule set by virtue of said set of application interfaces which allow communication between said extended parliamentary procedure rule set and said electronic meeting environment (p. 141, Lc, lines 22-29).

As to claim 15, refer to claim 14 rejection.

As to claim 16, refer to claim 14 rejection.

Art Unit: 2142

As to claim 17, refer to claim 14 rejection.

As to claim 33, Chang discloses a method for providing and monitoring electronic collaboration among users, comprising steps for:

accessing an electronic environment supported by an object based client-server architecture (p. 141, Lc, lines 22-29); communicating through said electronic environment supported by said object based client-server architecture (Fig. 6); and applying a set of protocol rules within said electronic environment by virtue of said object based client-server architecture (p. 141, Rc, lines 1-4);

As to claim 34, Chang further discloses wherein said electronic environment allows for synchronous and asynchronous communication (Fig. 1, p. 138, Lc, first four lines).

As to claim 35, Chang further discloses wherein said object based client-server architecture comprises a collaboration server a collaboration client, a domain server, and a set of middleware components (Fig. 6, p. 141, Rc, lines 5-34);

As to claim 36, refer to claim 35 rejection.

As to claim 37, refer to claim 2 rejection.

As to claim 39, refer to claim 2 rejection.

As to claim 41, Chang further disclose comprising:

a meeting registration function [a plan a must be established before meeting may be called (meeting registration function) (p. 138, Rc, lines 23-27)];

a meeting call to order function (Fig. 2);

Art Unit: 2142

a meeting list [an agenda for the meeting is a meeting list (p. 138, Rc, lines 28-34)];

a meeting floor (p. 138, Rc, lines 14-19);

a means to control said meeting floor (p. 138, Rc, lines 14-19);

a means to make motions (p. 138, Rc, lines 1-8) ; and

an adjournment function (p. 139, Lc, first four lines).

As to claim 42, refer to claim 39 rejection.

As to claim 43, refer to claim 39 rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5-8, 13-22,24-29,31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Chang et al, " Rule Mitigated Collaboration Technology", IEEE , p. 137, p. 142, Dec 1999.

As to claim 5, Chang further disclose an electronic meeting that takes advantage of the capacity of electronic networks to handle multiple simultaneous communication channels (p.139, Lc, lines 25-27).

Chang does not explicitly discloses wherein said electronic meeting environment is the Internet.

Art Unit: 2142

However, the Internet is obvious in view of high capacity electronic networks disclosed by Chang. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to use a popular network such as the Internet for its well known advantages such as accessibility by large number of user, the use of different protocols and platforms

As to claim 6 refer to claim 5 rejection.

As to claim 7 refer to claim 5 rejection.

As to claim 8 refer to claim 5 rejection.

As to claim 13, refer to claim 9 rejection.

As to claim 18, refer to claim 14 rejection.

As to claim 19, Chang discloses a system for providing and monitoring electronic collaboration among users comprising:

means for Internet access (p. 137, Lc, lines 23-38);

a meeting environment (p, 140, RC, lines 20-24); and

means for allowing mitigation of a set of protocol rules within said meeting environment (p, 140, RC, lines 20-24); and

an object based client-server architecture functionally supporting said meeting environment and said means for allowing mitigation of said set of protocol rules by virtue of said set of application interfaces which allow communication between said means for allowing mitigation of said set of protocol rules and said meeting environment (p, 141, LC, line 22- Rc, line 34);

Art Unit: 2142

Chang disclose an electronic meeting that takes advantage of the capacity of electronic networks to handle multiple simultaneous communication channels (p.139, Lc, lines 25-27).

Chang does not explicitly disclose means for Internet access.

However, the Internet is obvious in view of high capacity electronic networks disclosed by Chang. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to use a popular network such as the Internet for it's well known advantages such as accessability by large number of user, the use of different protocols and platforms.

As to claim 20, refer to claim 2 rejection.

As to claim 21, refer to claim 3 rejection.

As to claim 22, refer to claim 3 rejection.

As to claim 24, Chang further discloses further comprising a means to co-author artifacts (p. 137, Lc, lines 10-11)

As to claim 25, refer to claim 24 rejection.

As to claim 26, refer to claim 24 rejection.

As to claim 27, Chang further discloses wherein said object based client-server architecture comprises a collaboration server, a collaboration client, a domain server, and a set of middleware components (Fig. 6).

As to claim 28, refer to claim 41 rejection.

As to claim 29, refer to claim 41 rejection.

As to claim 31, refer to claim 41 rejection.

Art Unit: 2142

As to claim 32, refer to claim 41 rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

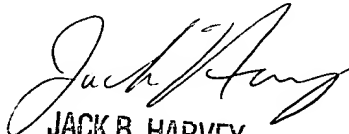
6. Claims 23,30,38,40,44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-3101. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey, can be reached on (703) 305-9705. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9051.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Hieu Le


JACK B. HARVEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER